

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

No. 192

July 8, 2021

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*Any statements in this issue of the Watch which are not sourced are mine and identified by “WW”.

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State of the Nation

38% of registered voters say the country is headed in the right direction. 50% of registered voters say the country is on the wrong track.

	<u>Right track</u>	<u>Wrong track</u>
Democrats	69%	20%
Republicans	15%	79%
Independents	28%	60%

[Econ/Yougov 6/15/21]

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U.S. adults are more likely to favor the death penalty in surveys conducted using the online American Trends Panel rather than surveys conducted on the phone. Using the online panel, 65% favor the death penalty while only 52% favor it on the phone. [Pew Research Center 4/11/21]

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In May 2021, 70% of American adults think that marriages between same-sex couples should be recognized as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages. 29% say that such marriages should not be valid. This represents a substantial change since 2011 when 53% thought these marriages should be valid. In 1999, 35% of American adults thought they should be valid. [Gallup 5/18/21]

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The Navajo Nation is now the largest tribe in the United States. The official enrollment is 399,494 people, eclipsing the Cherokee Nation with an enrollment of 392,000 people. [NYT 5/23/21]

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U.S. civilians account for 393,000,000 (about 46%) of the worldwide total of civilian-held firearms. About 40% of Americans say they or someone in their household owns a gun.

As of 2018 there are over one billion small arms distributed globally of which 857 million (about 85%) are in civilian hands. [Small Arms Survey – Wamu.org 9/18/20]

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54% of U.S. voters either strongly or somewhat approve of the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare. 37% oppose the law. [MorningConsult/Politico 6/21/21]

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The number of births in the United States fell by 4% last year according to a report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is the largest annual decline in the number of births since 1973. [CNN 6/23/21]

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Between 2018 and 2020, the decrease in average life expectancy at birth in the United States was roughly 1.9 years. This is 8.5 times the average decrease in 16 comparable countries, which was about 2.5 months.

The average life expectancy at birth of white Americans dropped by 1.4 years. The average Hispanic American’s life expectancy decreased by 3.0 years. While the average lifespan of a Black American decreased by 3.25 years. [NBC News 6/23/21]

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America is becoming more diverse based on previous and current censuses data.

	<u>1980</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>
White	80%	69.1%	63.8%	60.1%
Black	11.5%	12.1%	12.5%	12.1%
Latino/Hispanic	6.5%	12.6%	16.4%	18.5%
Asian	1.8%	3.8%	4.9%	5.9%

[Brookings 7/1/20]

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2021 is 5.8%. That unemployment rate is lower than the 6.1% in April and substantially less than the 13.0% unemployment rate of May 2020.

If one considers the total number of unemployed + those marginally attached to the labor force + those working part-time who want full-time work, the unemployment rate in May was 10.2%, down from 10.4% in April and substantially less than 21.2 % a year earlier.

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is 61.6%, down from 61.7% in April 2021.

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The Demographics of Unemployment for May 2021

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women –4.8% (same as last month)

Men –5.1% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Race

White – 5.1% (down from last month)

Black – 9.1% (down from last month)

Hispanic – 7.3% (down from last month)

Asian –5.5% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school –9.1% (down from last month)

High School –6.8% (down from last month)

Some college –5.8% (down from last month)

Bachelor's Degree or higher – 3.2% (down from last month)

In April, 31 states had unemployment rates below the national average of 6.1%. 21 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, had unemployment rates that were above the national average.

The state with the highest unemployment rate in April was Hawaii at 8.5%.
[BLS 5/21]

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The size of the federal workforce changed during the period of December 2016 to December 2020. Overall, the workforce grew by 3.4%.

12 departments lost full-time permanent employees ranging from a drop of 11.8% at Labor to 0.6% at Justice. Other agencies that fell were Education, State, HUD, Agriculture, Small Business, EPA, Energy, Interior, HHS, and Transportation.

Five departments grew: Commerce 0.2%, Treasury 1.8%, Defense 3.8%, Homeland Security 6.9%, and Veterans Affairs 13%. [WP May 22,2021]

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This and That

The G-7 makes up a shrinking share of the world economy. When it emerged in 1975, its members make up 70% of the global economy. Now the members account for just 40%. [WSJ, Morning Note 6/11/21]

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Congress passed the 18-year-old vote on March 23, 1971 – 50 years ago. Ratification was on July 1st. [Source Jay Berman]

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Who do you think you are? Here are seven generations from which to choose.

- The Greatest Generation (born 1901-1927)
- The Silent Generation (born 1928-1945)
- Baby Boomers (born 1946- 1964)
- Generation X (born 1965 – 1980)
- Millennials (born 1981-1995)
- Generation Z (born 1996 – 2010)
- Generation Alpha (born 2011-2025)

I (WW) am part of what is described as the Silent Generation. Not sure that description applies to me.

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Is Ranked Choice Voting the wave of the future?
It remains to be seen

What is ranked choice voting? It is a voting system which allows a voter to vote for more than one candidate, ranking them in order from 1 to x.

A candidate wins outright if they receive over 50% of the vote. If no candidate reaches that threshold, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated, and those voters' second choice is added into the mix. The process repeats until a candidate gets a majority of the vote.

In 16 states, individual cities or towns, have adopted rank choice voting although not necessarily yet implemented it. The largest jurisdiction to implement ranked choice voting is New York City. In the recent New York City primary to select a Democratic candidate for Mayor, voters were able to vote for up to 5 candidates ranking them from one to five.

In 34 states, no ranked choice voting has been selected or implemented in any jurisdiction. [Ballotpedia]

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Odds and Ends

You may recall that Alisyn Camarota and John Berman, while leading *New Day* at 7:00 a.m. EST on CNN matched what they were wearing—she with her outfit and he with his tie. She texted him at 5 a.m. in the morning to let him know what she would be wearing.

John Berman and his new partner Brianna Keilar do not try to match. However, there is one new element in their appearances. Brianna Keilar appears to wear a different pair of earrings each day.

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A cat passed away after a long life of being a perfect pet and went to heaven. At the Pearly Gates, God asked the cat, “If you could have anything in the world to make you happy, what would it be?”

The cat thought about it for a moment and replied, “Well, I lived on a farm for my whole life and had to sleep on hard and cold wooden floors. So, I would love a warm fluffy pillow to sleep on.”

God said, “Of course you can have that.” In an instant, a huge fluffy pillow appeared for the cat. She loved it because it was the softest and warmest thing she had ever felt in her life.

That same day, 12 mice appeared at the Pearly Gates after being involved in a terrible accident that took their lives. God asked them the same question, and they discussed it amongst themselves for a second.

The mice told God, “Well we were chased by dogs, cats, and even humans with brooms our whole lives. We would love to have some little roller skates so we would not have to run everywhere.”

A few days went by, and God decided to check on the new animal additions to Heaven starting with the cat. He found her lounging on her pillow and asked, “Hey Cat, how have things been so far?”

The cat responded, “Well, I have had the best sleep of my life on this pillow, and those little meals-on-wheels you send me every day are absolutely delicious.”

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QUOTES

“I don’t suppose there ever was a time when everybody knew as little about what they were talking about as they do today.”

-Will Rogers, 9/19/33

“When you want to be a somebody you buy a Ferrari. When you are somebody you buy a Lamborghini.”

-Frank Sinatra

“Only humans are dumb enough to think they can drive in all conditions – robots are smarter than that.”

-Reilly Brennan,
Trucks Venture Capital

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far it is possible to go.”

-T.S. Eliot

“Leave the beaten track occasionally and dive into the woods. You will be certain to find something that you have never seen before.”

-Alexander Graham Bell

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Riddles

- 1) Can you write down eight eights so that they add up to one thousand?
- 2) It can't be seen, can't be felt, can't be heard, and can't be smelt. It lies behind stars and under hills, and empty holes it fills. It comes first and follows after, ends life and kills laughter.
- 1) What English word retains the same pronunciation, even after you take away four of its five letters?
- 2) What is it that given one, you'll have either two or none?
- 3) George, Helen, and Steve are drinking coffee. Bert, Karen, and Dave are drinking soda. Using logic, is Elizabeth drinking coffee or soda?

Answers can be found on page 9.

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President Biden

(The following is based on registered voters unless indicated otherwise.)

President Biden's job approval ratings

<u>Date</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>CNN</u>	<u>FOX</u>	<u>QUINNIPIAC</u>
JUNE'21	xxx	xxx	xxx	56/43	xxx
MAY'21	xxx	xxx	xxx	54/42	49/41
APR'21	51/43	52/42	52/45	54/43	48/42

<u>Date</u>	<u>AP-NORC</u>	<u>ECON/YOUGOV</u>	<u>POL/MORNCON</u>
JUNE'21	55/44	52/44	53/44
	xxx	51/43	52/43
MAY'21	xxx	52/42	55/41
APR'21	63/36 A	xxx	xxx

As of June 22nd, this is Biden's approval rating based on Real Clear Politics:

	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
Over all	53.0%	43.2%
On the economy	52.3%	44.6%
On foreign policy	47.7%	44.5%

Gallup now does monthly or semi-monthly surveys of all adults. WW will include a periodic polling summary—Registered and Likely Voters—by FiveThirtyEight.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gallup (All Adults)</u>		<u>FiveThirtyEight (Reg/Likely voters)</u>	
	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
6/18/21	56%	42%	51.8%	42.4%
5/18/21	54%	40%	52.7%	40.7%
4/21/21	57%	40%	53.4%	40.1%
3/15/21	54%	42%	53.8%	40.2%
2/18/21	56%	40%	54.4%	37.8%

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Job approval of other elected presidents in June of their first year in office based on Gallup.

				<u>Including Biden</u>	
Trump	38%	Kennedy	71%	Kennedy	71%
Obama	61%	GHWBush	70%	GHWBush	70%
GWBush	54%	Carter	63%	Carter	63%
Clinton	41%	Nixon	63%	Nixon	63%
GHWBush	70%	Obama	61%	Obama	61%
Reagan	59%	Reagan	59%	Reagan	59%
Carter	63%	GWBush	54%	Biden	56%
Nixon	63%	Clinton	41%	GWBush	54%
Kennedy	71%	Trump	38%	Clinton	41%
				Trump	38%

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Answers to Riddles

- 1) $888+88+8+8+8=1000$
- 2) The dark
- 3) Queue

- 4) A choice
- 5) Elizabeth is drinking coffee. The letter E appears twice in her name, as it does in the names of others that are drinking coffee.

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Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

President Biden has been able to affect the federal judiciary early.

As of June 23, 2021, 6 judges nominated by Biden have been confirmed, 2 to the Courts of Appeals, and 4 to the District Courts.

There are currently an additional 76 vacancies in Article III courts; 7 in the U.S. Courts of Appeals, 67 in the U.S. District Courts, and 2 in the in the U.S. Courts of International Trade.

President Biden has nominated an additional 19 individuals to the district and circuit courts.

The chart below reflects the number of Article III court judges appointed by every U.S. president since Jimmy Carter.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>	<u>Int'l Trade</u>
Biden – 5 months	6	0	2	4	
Trump – 4 years	234	3	54	174	3
Obama – 8 years	325	2	55	268	
GW Bush – 8 years	325	2	62	261	
Clinton – 8 years	373	2	66	305	
GHW Bush – 4 years	192	2	42	148	
Reagan – 8 years	376	4	83	290	
Carter – 4 years	261	0	59	203	

[USCourts/Wikipedia/List of federal judges appointed by Joe Biden]

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2022 Election

As usual, Amy Walter, the National Editor of the Cook Political Report, has come up with information about the coming redistricting of the whole country that is not readily available from other sources.

<u>2001</u>	<u>2021</u>
Democrats controlled line drawing: 7 states with 101 Cong Districts	8 states with 75 Districts
Republicans controlled line drawing: 8 states with 98 Cong Districts	20 states with 187 Districts
Split control of the process: 23 states with 195 Cong Districts	6 states with 46 Districts
Independent Commissions: 5 states with 34 Cong Districts (This covers 428 districts)	10 states with 121 Districts (this covers 420 districts)

In 2002 there were 7 at-large states (MT, ND, SD, AK, VT, WY, DE).

In 2021 there are 6 at-large states (MT will now have 2 districts).

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The 117th Congress Congress

Approval of the Congress was growing after the election but since mid-May it has dropped.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 6/15/21	28.8%	60.5%
Real Clear Pol. 5/18/21	35%	56.3%
Real Clear Pol. 5/4/21	36.3%	55.5%
Real Clear Pol. 4/6/21	34.3%	57.0%
Real Clear Pol. 3/2/21	29.7%	60.0%
Real Clear Pol. 2/22/21	26.3%	60.0%
Real Clear Pol. 1/5/21	18.7%	70.3%
Real Clear Pol. 11/10/20	18.0%	70.3%

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington Watch uses the Cook Political Report for its report on elections in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Currently:
Democrats 220 seats
Republicans 211 seats
Vacancies - 4 seats (FL-20, OH-11,OH-15 TX-06)

Open seats in 2022
Democrats 6
Republicans 7

Potential open seats in 2022
Democrats 7
Republicans 15

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THE SENATE

[WW uses Jessica Taylor of the Cook Political Report and Inside Elections for the Senate chart below. When those two organizations do not agree, WW uses Sabato as a tie breaker.]

Republicans – 50
Democrats – 48
Independents – 2

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2022	34	30	2
Safe in 2022	10	15	
	Padilla	Murkowski	
	Bennet	AL – open	
	Blumenthal	Boozman	
	Schatz	Grassley	
	Duckworth	Crapo	
	Van Hollen	Young	
	Schumer	Moran	
	Wyden	Paul	

	Leahy Murray	Kennedy MO – open Hoeven Lankford Scott Thune Lee
Likely	2 Hassan Cortez Masto	2 Rubio OH – open
Lean	2 Kelly Warnock	2 Johnson NC - open
Toss Up	0	1 PA – open

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2024 Election

The following people have indicated or been named as someone thinking about or planning to run for president in 2024.

Donald Trump
 Kristi Noem – Governor of South Dakota
 Nikki Haley – Former governor of South Carolina (Announced she will not run if Trump runs)
 Mike Pompeo – Former Secretary of State
 Larry Hogan – Governor of Maryland
 Ben Sasse – U.S. Senator
 Ron DeSantis – Governor of Florida
 Tom Cotton – U.S. Senator
 Josh Hawley – U.S. Senator
 Rick Scott – U.S. Senator
 Ted Cruz – U.S. Senator
 Mike Pence – Former Vice President
 Chris Christie – Former Governor New Jersey

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Women Will Get It Done

Vice President Harris was the first woman to deliver the keynote address at the U.S. Naval Academy graduation (2021).

Karine Jean-Pierre is the first openly gay woman and only the second Black woman in history to deliver the White House press briefing. (AP)

For the first time in its 228-year history, the Louvre will be run by a woman, Laurence des Cars. (NYT)

FIGS, a direct-to-consumer medical apparel company, appears to be the first-ever company taken public by female co-founders (Heather Hasson and Trina Spear). (Broadsheet 5/28/21)

Lina Kahn is the youngest-ever chair of the Federal Trade Commission. (NYT 6/20/21)

India Walton, a self-identified socialist, scored an upset victory in Buffalo's Democratic primary for mayor. Republicans have not fielded a candidate for Mayor and have not won City Hall in Buffalo since the 1960s. If Walton wins the general election in November, she will become the first socialist mayor of a large American city since 1960. [WP 6/23/21] [NBC News 6/23/21]

41 companies on the 67th annual Fortune 500 are led by women CEOs – an all-time high. Of the top 10 companies, No.4 CVS Health, is the highest-ranking business ever run by a female CEO (Karen Lynch). [Axios 6/2/21]

Female lawyers argued less than 10% of companies' patent appeal cases at the Federal Circuit in the last decade, while government attorneys have achieved near gender parity in the same area. [Temple University's Beasley School of Law. Appellate Law 360 6/23/21]

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Restaurants

Imperfecto

1124 23rd St NW

Washington DC 20037

Amy, Peter, Debbie, and I went to Imperfecto for dinner on a Saturday night. The restaurant first opened on March 19, 2021. Amy made a reservation for a week earlier which we had to cancel but when Amy called to cancel that reservation, the restaurant offered a new reservation for the same time a week later.

There is an outdoor seating area, called the Patio, through which you walk when approaching the front door of the restaurant.

As you enter the restaurant, the ceiling of which is two stories high, the greeter station is straight ahead. To the right is a bar with 8 high-backed stools.

There is a corridor between the bar and the greeting station but more on that later.

To the left of the entry is a chef's table that seats up to 12 people and has a station at the end where the chef works. The special chef's table menu is only available on Friday and Saturday nights.

The balance of the restaurant is in two sections. The smaller section includes the chef's table and a banquette that runs along the floor-to-ceiling partial wall that separates the two sections. There are tables and chairs facing the banquette that can be arranged to accommodate parties of 2, 4, or 6. There are a series of separate tables in this first section of the restaurant.

On the far wall of the second and larger section of the restaurant there are several alcoves of different sizes which accommodate tables of 2 or 4 people. And within this second section, the evening we were there, a table for 10 people was created. In order to accommodate this larger group, one of the tables for 4 that already had folks seated were asked to move to another table in the smaller section.

We were seated at a table facing the blue banquette in the smaller section with Amy and Debbie seated on the banquette.

There is seating for about 70 diners inside and 30-50 outside. The age of the diners ranged from the early 20s to the 80s. The restaurant is noisy when it is full.

In addition to the greeters who also seat you, a variety of people will be involved in your visit. There are servers, all of whom are men dressed in coat and tie. There is a group of men and women who are server assistants, dressed in black

and white uniforms. They clear tables and refill basic beverages. Then there are the food runners who deliver food from the kitchen to be placed on tables by the servers. There are two or three women who simply move around the room asking guests how things are going and helping out wherever necessary, for example in adjusting the size of tables. And, finally, there are two men, casually dressed who appeared to be in charge.

Our server first handed us a list of specialty cocktails and mocktails that are available in addition to regular bar service.

Debbie ordered a gin and tonic. Amy, Peter, and I ordered mocktails. Amy and Peter ordered “Mr. Berry” - Apple juice, lemon, fresh berries, soda water, elderflower syrup. I ordered a “Blue Marea” – Pineapple juice, blue marea, lime, simple syrup, orange. (Note – this drink is served in a very heavy blue glass fish shaped container which I was not able to hold with one hand and so it got a bit awkward. The drink itself was excellent and if I order it again, I will ask for it in a regular glass.)

The dinner menu has three sections but we each ordered two dishes and it turned out there was a “negotiation” over what each of us would order with our respective spouses.

Amy ordered Tuna Tartare (Bluefin tuna) and Braised Lamb Terrine while Peter ordered Falafel and Lubina (Pan-seared Branzino fillet).

Debbie ordered Moussaka Cigar (Crispy phyllo dough, smoked eggplant etc) and Pork Tenderloin. I ordered Egyptian KFC (Crispy cauliflower) and Octopus.

For dessert Peter ordered Epicurious Cacao (White chocolate ice cream, milk chocolate custard), Amy ordered Sweet Forbidden Rice (pudding custard), Debbie selected the Imperfecto Éclair, and I chose Seven Sorbets.

Before our first dishes arrived, the restaurant served an Amuse Bouche; a small cup of warm, creamy mushroom soup.

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On the corridor between the greeters’ station and the bar, there are three gender neutral restrooms. The first and third are also handicapped accessible.

Each of the restrooms is set up to be used by one person at a time. However, there is plenty of room for a second person if neither person is concerned about a lack of privacy. There is a floor based white ceramic commode and a white

ceramic wall hanging washbasin. The handicapped versions have a variety of silver metal wall attached handles and bars.

The floor and the walls to waist height are covered with dark brown 3”x 3” square tiles. The upper parts of the walls are covered by a dark color with an attached design which WW finds it hard to describe.

Regular reservations at the restaurant require a \$25/person deposit which is applied to your final check. Reservations may be made for parties of 1 to 8.

Reservations may be canceled 24 hours in advance. After that, the deposit is not refundable. There is also a \$3 credit card processing fee. These deposits and credit card processing fees are not something that WW has previously experienced. All of this information appears on Imperfecto’s website.

You can make a reservation for seating on the Patio or in the restaurant. A reservation on the Patio comes with the following caveat, “Please be aware that in the event of inclement weather we cannot guarantee inside seating. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.”

There is a steady stream of emergency vehicles that cruise 23rd Street with lights flashing but sirens muted.

The building in which Imperfecto is located runs all along L Street from 24th Street NW to 23rd Street NW, and a substantial distance up 23rd and 24th Streets. The bulk of the building houses the Westlight Condos and Apartments, but it also includes a branch of the DC Public Library and a Bluestone Lane Café (located at the corner of 23rd and L and has a substantial number of outside tables with large umbrellas).

Imperfecto is located on the end of 23rd Street that is closest to M Street.

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Tosca
1112 F St NW
Washington DC 20004
202-367-1990

After being closed for many months and having undergone an interior makeover, Tosca reopened for dinner on May 25th. Bev, Brady, Debbie, and I went there for dinner on June 26th.

It was just like the good old days. Most of the servers were the same, although there were several new servers. We ran into a few old friends on the way in. The food was as good as always.

The restaurant is not open for lunch at this time but is likely to open for lunch later this summer.

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WW Recommends Books & Other Things

In this feature of the Washington Watch, WW will primarily recommend books you may find interesting but may also now and then mention a TV program and other things. I welcome your suggestions and your input. What have you been reading or watching that you think WW readers might like?

Dissent

The Radicalization of the Republican Party and its Capture of the Court By Jackie Calmes

Featuring new interviews with his accusers and overlooked evidence of his deceptions, a deeply reported account of the life and confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh, set against the conservative movement's capture of the courts.

In *DISSENT*, award-winning investigative journalist Jackie Calmes brings readers closer to the truth of who Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh is, where he came from, and how he and the Republican party at large managed to secure one of the highest seats of power in the land.

Kavanaugh's rise to the justice who solidified conservative control of the supreme court is a story of personal achievement, but also a larger, political tale: of the Republican Party's movement over four decades toward the far right, and its parallel campaign to dominate the government's judicial branch as well as the other two.

And Kavanaugh uniquely personifies this history. Fourteen years before reaching the Supreme Court, during a three-year fight for a seat on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, Democratic Senator Dick Durbin would say to Kavanaugh, "It seems that you are the Zelig or Forrest Gump of Republican politics. You show up at every scene of the crime."

Featuring revelatory new reporting and exclusive interviews, *DISSENT* is a harrowing look into the highest echelons of political power in the United States, and a captivating survey of the people who will do anything to have it.

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[The following is not a new book, but someone recently gave me a copy and I thought others might find it as interesting as I did]

Viva la Repartee:

Cleaver comebacks & witty retorts from history's great wits & wordsmiths
By Dr. Mardy Grothee

For most of us, that perfect retort or witty reply often escapes us when we need it most, only to come to mind with perfect clarity when it's too late to be useful. The twentieth-century writer Heywood Broun described this all-too-common phenomenon when he wrote "Repartee is what we wish we'd said."

In *Viva la Repartee*, Dr. Mardy Grothe, author of *Oxymoronica*, has lovingly assembled a collection of masterfully composed -- and perfectly timed -- replies that have turned the tables on opponents and adversaries. This delightful volume is a celebration of the most impressive retorts, ripostes, rejoinders, comebacks, quips, ad-libs, bon mots, off-the-cuff comments, wisecracks, and other clever remarks ever to come out of the mouths -- and from the pens -- of people throughout history. Touching on all areas of human endeavor, including politics, the arts, literature, sports, relationships, and even the risqué, the book features contributions from Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain, Dorothy Parker, Mae West, Groucho Marx, Winston Churchill, Dolly Parton, and scores more.

As entertaining as it is intellectually enriching, *Viva la Repartee* is sure to capture the attention of language lovers and is the perfect antidote for anyone who's ever thought I wish I'd said that!

* * * * *

Mine!

How The Hidden Rules of Ownership Control our Lives
by Michael Heller & James Salzman

A hidden set of rules governs who owns what--explaining everything from whether you can recline your airplane seat to why HBO lets you borrow a password

illegally--and in this lively and entertaining guide, two acclaimed law professors reveal how things become "mine."

"Mine" is one of the first words babies learn. By the time we grow up, the idea of ownership seems natural, whether buying a cup of coffee or a house. But who controls the space behind your airplane seat: you reclining or the squished laptop user behind? Why is plagiarism wrong, but it's okay to knock-off a recipe or a dress design? And after a snowstorm, why does a chair in the street hold your parking space in Chicago, but in New York you lose the space and the chair?

Mine! explains these puzzles and many more. Surprisingly, there are just six simple stories that everyone uses to claim everything. Owners choose the story that steers us to do what they want. But we can always pick a different story. This is true not just for airplane seats, but also for battles over digital privacy, climate change, and wealth inequality. As Michael Heller and James Salzman show--in the spirited style of *Freakonomics*, *Nudge*, and *Predictably Irrational*--ownership is always up for grabs.

With stories that are eye-opening, mind-bending, and sometimes infuriating, *Mine!* reveals the rules of ownership that secretly control our lives.

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